



Seattle-King County Continuum of Care Convening

CoC Board Nominees:

What motivates you to be on the CoC Board?

Candidate #1 - Titi White

I am extremely interested in joining the CoC Board to gain a better understanding of the processes and barriers that we, as a county are facing, in regards to federal funding/assistance. I have battled homelessness in the past, as a young mother, and my heart breaks for the families that I see and hear from, on a daily basis, who are experiencing homelessness with little to no help or guidance from the county.

Candidate #2 - Elizabeth McKeen Fitzgerald Maupin

I am particularly interested in efforts to keep people from becoming homeless and in addressing the needs of vehicle residents and unhoused couples, two groups that seem to be overlooked in many of our plans to address homelessness. I wish we might also spur our community to address the primary systemic causes of homelessness -- the high costs of housing here in King County and our low vacancy rate for housing that is affordable to those with modest to low incomes. Some of this should be addressed through changes in zoning ordinances and some through state legislation to keep rents from rising faster than minimum wage incomes. Public perceptions and political will are key to any efforts to address homelessness effectively.

Candidate #3 - Amaiya Leonor

I have been a CoC board alternate for Lacey for a while, and I would really love a seat at the table to be a member. I am a part of the YAB, which was formed to end youth homelessness and I think these causes go hand-in-hand.

Candidate #4 - Victor Loo

My motivation to join the Continuum of Care Board is deeply influenced by my background as a first-generation Asian immigrant and a non-binary individual from the LGBTQIA+ community, coupled with my professional skills in integrated managed care and personal experiences with homelessness. These diverse perspectives equip me with a unique understanding of the challenges faced by marginalized communities, fostering a strong commitment to advocacy and systemic change. I have navigated the challenges of cultural adaptation, racism, and societal expectations, which have deepened my empathy and driven my passion to advocate for equity and inclusivity in social care systems. Professionally, my expertise in managing healthcare services underscores the importance of accessible and comprehensive care that meets the needs of diverse populations. By serving on the Continuum of Care Board, I aim to confront institutional barriers and advocate for policies that enhance service provision, promote equity, and support systemic reforms. My goal is to leverage my experiences and professional knowledge to ensure our care systems are inclusive and effective, striving for a fairer and more equitable society.



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Candidate #5 - Amy Thomas

Being part of the Continuum of Care (CoC) board will be deeply rewarding. I am driven by a commitment to ending homelessness and making a positive impact in my community. I am motivated by compassion, a desire for systemic change, and the chance to collaborate with others who share this vision. It's about creating lasting solutions and giving everyone a chance to find stability and hope.

Candidate #6 - Bella Irons

My motivation to serve on the CoC Board is deeply rooted in both my professional background and personal experiences. As a domestic violence survivor and a former car-camping graduate student, I've faced the harsh realities of homelessness firsthand, which fuels my commitment to social justice and systemic change. My extensive experience in developing strategic partnerships and managing impactful projects, including securing substantial funding and resources for vulnerable populations, has prepared me to contribute effectively to the CoC's mission. By joining the CoC Board, I aim to leverage my personal insights and professional skills to help create a homelessness response system that is not only efficient but also compassionate, ensuring that homelessness is rare, brief, and non-recurring for all members of our community.

Candidate #7 - Jade Weise

Many things motivate me to apply for this opportunity to serve on the King County CoC board because I believe in all the possibilities of what a powerful Continuum can do. Inspired by local and sister communities like Puerto Rico's CoC (CoC-PR502), I invoke the energy needed to further grow King County's CoC success. Despite being a new CoC member and newer community organizer, I have vast lived and professional experience that blesses me with a unique lens to approaching human rights crises such as homelessness and the criminalization of poor people. My high-level understanding of the local, statewide, national, and international systemic issues that permeate oppression adds fuel to my passion for the work. Also, throughout my personal and professional experience I have learned from folks actively experiencing the worst symptoms of being unhoused and from those who have made history in this sector to lead us to where we are today. I see this board opportunity as an honor and privilege to apply my skills. I would take the position very seriously and express deep gratitude to learn along the way of building cross-sector sustainable solutions in a beloved community with my fellow CoC members. I truly believe that CoC is a positive community pathway on which we may operate in good faith while engaging in the hardest conversations necessary to start using scarce resources in a big way.

Candidate #8 - Kristina Sawyckyj

My specific interest lies within the ways I live and relate within this space. I am currently homeless. I am a homeless, multiracial, LGBTQIP2SAA+. Two-spirited, military veteran, physically, intellectually, behaviorally disabled person in recovery with adult children who are necessary for me



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to live, as I need live-in caregivers. I have a severe brain injury, PTS/moral injury, depression, incomplete spinal cord injury, & accompanying disabilities from these injuries. I am working toward my master's degree with aspirations to get my law degree. I have a small business. I am motivated by the fact that I am homeless and people within our community still see homelessness as a choice. I am not choosing this. I am choosing to better myself and work hard toward self-improvement/growth. I am motivated to bring my current voice of the unhoused forward, while bring voices of my neighbors forward, with their approval. My unhoused neighbors are dying by my side, some freezing to death, some dying with cancer, some dying with infection...no person in King County should freeze to death outside but tell that to the 5 that have died outside from hypothermia in 2024. I am motivated to see homelessness end. I am motivated to see my brothers and sisters no longer cry from the pain of living outside or the struggles from issues...that tear them apart inside-leading to homelessness or the youth telling me how their parents threw them out because they loved "differently", dressed "differently" or felt "differently" then parental expectations allowed (term used by parents) or because they wanted to pursue art instead of a trade, as they pick me up off the ground after falling. Youth with such big hearts that they look out for me...and I never have to ask. Everyone deserves housing! That's what motivates me.

Candidate #9 - Tamara Bauman

As I've been on the Board for the past 3.5 years, I would relish the opportunity to continue leading the work on incorporating #Wellbeing as a design principle in our system rebid and project evaluation activities. I am motivated by a firm belief that housing is a human right and not a privilege or a commodity! I hope to participate in the redesign of our systems by contributing insights gained from my own lived experience of homelessness and domestic violence as well as my expertise as a service provider. In partnership with the larger community, I hope to actualize a more equitable and effective homeless response system that shares power with those experiencing homelessness and defers to this group of experts when policy decisions are made. Ultimately, I am motivated to see an end to homelessness and the industrialization of this particular humanitarian crisis. I believe we can do that through cross-sector collaboration, innovation, centering lived experience, and a commitment to transformative justice, anti-oppression, and liberation for all communities.